

ISSN 0276-8275

WTTOnline.com

A Weekly Report for Business Executives on  
U.S. Trade Policies, Negotiations, Legislation,  
Trade Laws and Export Controls

# Washington Tariff & Trade Letter®

Vol. 43, No 5

January 30, 2023

## WTO Appellate Body Reform Goes Nowhere

The United States is entering a third phase of talks with countries to reform the World Trade Organization's (WTO) hobbled trade dispute arbitration system and aims for it to be “fully functioning” by the end of 2024, the U.S. ambassador to the WTO told *Reuters* on Thursday. By Friday afternoon, talks appeared to have been fruitless.

The WTO's appeals bench, which rules on top disputes, has been mothballed for over two years due to Trump-era blockages of adjudicator appointments. Under President Joe Biden, Washington has resisted calls by WTO members to approve appointments and has instead been leading negotiations on how to reboot the WTO's dispute system.

**“Our goal is a fully functioning (dispute system) by 2024,”** Deputy United States Trade Representative Maria Pagan told *Reuters* in her first public comments on the closed-door talks, saying Washington was “very committed” to reforms.

Asked whether it was possible to revive the Appellate Body, Pagan did not rule it out. “I think it needs a lot of revamping,” she said. The United States has criticized the WTO's alleged overreach and lengthy processes and it has strongly contested some of its recent rulings against the United States. The U.S.-led consultations with more than 70 countries over the past year have involved 12 reform themes expected to result in concrete proposals, Pagan said.

She declined to give details but suggested they would include alternatives to formal disputes such as mediation. The appeals bench freeze means 24 WTO cases are stuck in legal purgatory because the losing party has appealed into a void.

**Friday's meeting yielded little in the way of progress.** China said it objected to the US allegations and unilateral judgment and interference in other members' internal affairs and said the WTO dispute settlement mechanism is a forum to resolve trade disputes rather than a place to discuss political issues. Hong Kong China and Russia also underlined that the WTO was not the place for discussion of political issues.

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Guatemala, speaking on behalf of 127 members, **introduced for the 62nd time the group's proposal to start the selection processes for filling vacancies on the Appellate Body**. Nearly 20 delegations took the floor, many reiterated statements made in past meetings that stressed the importance of the WTO's two-tiered dispute settlement system to the stability and predictability of the multilateral trading system and the need to resolve the deadlock.

**Norway and Switzerland challenges to US tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.** Norway “regretted the US decision to appeal the panel ruling as this will be another dispute in a long line of cases appealed into the void and then awaiting a final determination. Norway is pleased with the panel's finding that the additional tariffs are in violation of WTO rules, including its conclusion that they were not justified under the Article XXI(b) security exception.”

This panel, like the others, has confirmed that that Article XXI is an affirmative defense to a claim of WTO inconsistency and that the invocation of the WTO security exception does not preclude a panel from making findings on the complainant's claim.

**Article XXI of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade** is the Security Exception, providing the treaty has no authority “to prevent any contracting party from taking any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests.”

## **Bipartisan Push to Restore Solar Tariffs**

A bipartisan resolution of disapproval introduced in the House yesterday would undo a regulation that suspended tariffs on solar imports from four Southeast Asian countries. Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee (Mich) – chief sponsor of the resolution – argued that the countries are helping Chinese solar manufacturers to evade the US tariffs.

The tariffs were put in place primarily to help US producers compete against China. The Administration opted to suspend tariffs on solar products from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. But an Administration investigation found that companies from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam are helping Chinese companies evade the tariffs. Malaysia did not participate in the investigation.

“We cannot allow foreign solar manufacturers to violate trade law, especially when it comes at the expense of American workers and businesses,” Rep. Kildee said, adding that the Administration decision to suspend the tariffs is “unacceptable.” “This bipartisan legislation, supported by Democrats and Republicans, will repeal this misguided rule to enforce US trade law as Congress intended and help America’s domestic solar manufacturing industry grow to meet our nation’s energy needs,” he stated.

## **Rolling Back Regulation**

The resolution of disapproval would roll back the regulation that suspends tariffs on solar imports from the four Southeast Asian countries, which is otherwise in effect until mid-2024. Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can repeal rules enacted by the executive branch if they were enacted within 60 legislative days of the end of the last legislative session.

The rule was issued by the Commerce Department codifying the President's decision to delay any circumvention tariffs on imports of solar panels from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam for 24 months went into effect November 15, 2022. In December 2022, Commerce released its initial investigation, finding that circumvention did occur.

The CRA requires lawmakers to introduce CRA legislation within 15 days of a new legislative session. A simple majority is required in both chambers for passage, but a CRA bill must pass the House within 60 calendar days of its introduction, or it expires.

## Wyden, Crapo Cite USMCA Enforcement

Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-Ore) and ranking Republican Mike Crapo (Idaho) are joining forces in urging the Administration to strong enforcement of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Both Canada and Mexico are failing to live up to all the commitments they made in the agreement, the senators said in a letter to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai yesterday.

“Congress approved USMCA with large bipartisan majorities, in no small part because the deal included strong rules and the mechanisms necessary to enforce those rules,” the senators wrote. “Three years later, it is disappointing that Canada and Mexico have failed to come into full compliance with the Agreement – and, in some cases, have flouted their obligations.”

It is critical that every chapter of the USMCA is fully enforced – resorting to enforcement actions if necessary, the two senators said. The senators highlighted trade challenges in several areas, including the energy sector, agriculture, the environment, digital trade and labor.

### USMCA Deputies Meet

During remarks Thursday in Philadelphia, Ms. Tai said implementation and enforcement of the USMCA is an Administration priority, and Deputy USTR Jayme White conveyed several US concerns to his USMCA counterparts about compliance with the agreement, in advance of Thursday's meeting of USMCA deputies in San Diego.

**Following the deputies' meeting, Mr. White, Canada's Deputy Minister for International Trade Rob Stewart and Mexico's Under Secretary of Foreign Trade Alejandro Encinas released a joint statement:**

“We received updates from 11 committees and working groups of the Agreement that have convened since the second Free Trade Commission meeting last July. This work demonstrates that continued implementation of the USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC is an important priority for all three Parties and that the Agreement remains the foundation for continued North American economic integration and enhanced regional competitiveness.

“Today we discussed plans for fostering that competitiveness, including cooperation during emergency situations in order to maintain, re-establish, or otherwise address issues related to the flow of trade between the Parties, and highlighted the Competitiveness Committee's work to upskill our regional workforce...

“We also discussed concrete steps to ensure that the Agreement’s prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labor will soon be in place across North America, moving us together in eradicating the scourge of forced labor from the global trading system.

“We heard directly from the Executive Director of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation regarding ongoing trilateral cooperation activities, which enable robust implementation of the USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC Environment chapter and Environmental Cooperation Agreement commitments, and information regarding the Commission’s public submission process...

“We welcomed plans for Canada to soon host an inclusive trade-related workshop for our teams to better integrate inclusivity into USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC committee work and ensure that committees are more meaningfully informed by a broad range of stakeholders, including especially those in underrepresented communities.”

## APEP Ministerial Sets Goals

The United States hosted a virtual ministerial meeting Friday under the **Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity**, the Administration’s proposal for a regional framework for cooperation to promote inclusive economic growth and strengthen regional competitiveness.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai led the event, “to advance the Americas Partnership to build new models of cooperation that bolster regional economic resilience and integration, address our common challenges, and deliver shared prosperity for our peoples,” according to a State Department announcement.

“To advance our vision for a human-centric approach to trade, all twelve of our economies must be in this together – to deepen our economic cooperation, strengthen our collective resilience, and advance democracy and shared prosperity,” said Ambassador Tai in her closing remarks Friday.

Earlier, Undersecretary of State Jose Fernandez said that the APEP discussions are behind compared to the Administration’s other regional trade deal, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, but he predicted that both the APEP and IPEF will be completed this year.

United States has free trade agreements with nine of the initial partners. Participating countries are Barbados, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay. Among the countries not participating are Brazil, Argentina, as well as the leading sources of economic migrants to the US (Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, Nicaragua her neighbors).

### **Americas Partnership will focus on the following areas:**

- **Regional competitiveness:** including customs procedures, trade facilitation, logistics, good regulatory practices, and non-tariff barriers.
- **Resilience:** strengthen sustainability and resilience of supply chains and small and medium businesses, while protecting environment and workers.

- Shared prosperity:** We must ensure that all can benefit from a dynamic economy. with investments in workforce development, labor standards, and promotion of quality jobs; expanding financial inclusion; and improving public services while addressing corruption, tax evasion, and other drags on ability to deliver.
- Inclusive and sustainable investment:** seek to unlock needed financing, reinvigorating regional economic institutions and working together to bring responsible private investment to the region.

## OFAC Ratchets up Wagner Group Sanctions

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said yesterday it is taking additional actions to degrade Russia's capacity to wage war against Ukraine by expanding sanctions on the para-military Wagner Group. The sanctions target Wagner's key infrastructure and associated front companies, its battlefield operations in Ukraine, producers of Russia's weapons and those administering Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine.

"As sanctions and export controls on Russia from our international coalition continue to bite, the Kremlin is desperately searching for arms and support – including through the brutal Wagner Group – to continue its unjust war against Ukraine," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement. "Today's expanded sanctions on Wagner, as well as new sanctions on their associates and other companies enabling the Russian military complex, will further impede Putin's ability to arm and equip his war machine," she continued.

PMC Wagner (Wagner Group) is a Russian private military company led by Yevgeniy Prigozhin, a Putin crony and the target of multiple US sanctions, according to Treasury. Wagner Group has been involved in Kremlin-backed combat operations around the world in support of Putin's war on Ukraine. Treasury stated that as Russia's military has struggled on the battlefield, Putin has resorted to relying on the Wagner Group. The Wagner Group has also meddled and destabilized countries in Africa, committing widespread human rights abuses and extorting natural resources from their people.

Treasury announced that the Wagner Group is being redesignated for being a foreign person that constitutes a significant transnational criminal organization. Wagner personnel have engaged in an ongoing pattern of serious criminal activity, including mass executions, rape, child abductions, and physical abuse in the Central African Republic and Mali. Treasury also is designating numerous entities and individuals on multiple continents that support the Wagner Group's military operations.

[\[announcement\]](#)

## Trans-Atlantic Collaboration in Crypto Raid.

An operation led by French and US authorities, and strongly supported by Europol, has targeted the crypto exchange platform Bitzlato. The globally operating Hong Kong-registered cryptocurrency exchange is suspected of facilitating the laundering of large amounts of criminal proceeds and converting them into roubles.

Law enforcement authorities took down the digital infrastructure of the service, based in France, and interrogated leading members of the platform's management. The operation also involved law enforcement and judicial authorities from Belgium, Cyprus, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands.

The Justice Department announced it arrested Anatoly Legkodymov, 40, a Russian national based in Shenzhen in Miami. He is the founder of Bitzlato, a cryptocurrency exchange that US authorities described as a "crucial financial resource" to the dark net. Europol reports that about 46 % of the assets exchanged through Bitzlato, worth roughly EUR 1 billion, had links to criminal activities.

In a parallel action, Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued an order that identifies Bitzlato as a "primary money laundering concern" in connection with Russian illicit finance. This is the first order issued pursuant to section 9714(a) of the Combating Russian Money Laundering Act, as amended

As described in the order, Bitzlato is a virtual currency exchange offering exchange and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) services. Bitzlato maintains significant operations in and connected to Russia and to Russian illicit finance through its facilitation of deposits and funds transfers by Russia-affiliated ransomware groups or affiliates, and transactions with Russia-connected darknet markets.

FinCEN also found that Bitzlato has taken few meaningful steps to identify and disrupt illicit use and abuse of its services. Bitzlato does not effectively implement policies and procedures designed to combat money laundering and illicit finance, and has advertised a lack of such policies, procedures, or internal controls. An internal spreadsheet saved in Bitzlato's shared management folder encapsulated the company's view of itself: "Positives: No KYC. . . . Negatives: Dirty money. . . ."

Legkodymov is charged with conducting an unlicensed money transmitting business. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison. The firm's CEO, Financial Director and Marketing director have been arrested by Spanish authorities.

Concurrent with the arrests, French authorities, working with Europol and partners in Spain, Portugal, and Cyprus, dismantled Bitzlato's digital infrastructure, seized Bitzlato's cryptocurrency, and took other enforcement actions.

## **Beef COOL Bill Reintroduced.**

Legislation to once again require mandatory country of origin labeling for beef has been reintroduced by a bipartisan group of senators, led by South Dakota Republican John Thune. The United States dropped its previous country of origin labeling requirement after it was found illegal by the World Trade Organization.

**The American Beef Labeling Act** would require the US Trade Representative, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to develop a WTO-compliant means of reinstating the labeling requirement for beef within one year of enactment. USTR would have six months to develop a reinstatement plan followed by a six-month window to implement it. If USTR fails to reinstate MCOOL for beef within one year of enactment, it would automatically be reinstated for beef only.

“Transparency in labeling would benefit both producers and consumers,” Sen. Thune said in a statement. “Unfortunately, the current beef labeling system in this country allows imported beef that is neither born nor raised in the United States, but simply finished here, to be labeled as a product of the USA. This process is unfair to cattle producers and misleading for consumers. When you see a ‘product of the USA’ label on the grocery store shelf, it should mean just that.”

The bill was introduced in the last Congress, but never saw action. Supporters say they hope to see the legislation pass in this Congress. Cosponsors of the bill include Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

## US Warns Mexico on Biotech Corn Ban

US trade officials are warning that they are ready to take action against Mexico’s proposed phase-out of genetically-engineered corn and other products following meetings in Mexico City yesterday.

US Chief Agricultural Negotiator **Doug McKalip** and Agriculture **Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor** – both newly-installed in their positions – issued a joint statement emphasizing that the Mexican proposal would violate the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

The dispute stems from Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s decree to phase out the use and importation of genetically-engineered corn and other products by January 31, 2024.

Mexico offered proposed modifications to the decree late last year, but “these changes are not sufficient and Mexico’s proposed approach, which is not grounded in science, still threatens to disrupt billions of dollars in bilateral agricultural trade, cause serious economic harm to US farmers and Mexican livestock producers, and stifle important innovations needed to help producers respond to pressing climate and food security challenges,” the two US officials said.

Washington continues to have “grave concerns” with the policy, they said. The two US officials expressed appreciation with Mexico’s efforts to resolve US concerns with the decree, but the Administration is running out of patience.

“We made it clear today that if this issue is not resolved, we will consider all options, including taking formal steps to enforce our rights under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement,” they stated.

## DoC Retains Softwood Lumber Duties

The Commerce Department opted to keep antidumping and countervailing duties on softwood lumber from Canada in the continued absence of a deal with Ottawa. Commerce announced the preliminary determination of a combined antisubsidy and antidumping duty rate of 8.24 percent in its fourth annual review of Canadian softwood lumber imports. The review covers lumber imported in calendar year 2021.

US producers praised Commerce for continuing to enforce US trade remedy laws, despite Canada’s opposition to the duties. “A level playing field against subsidized and dumped imports is particularly important during times of down markets when US mills can least afford to lose sales to Canada’s harmful

unfair trade practices that endanger US jobs and communities who depend on a vibrant US forestry industry,” said Andrew Miller, Chairman of the US Lumber Coalition and CEO of Stimson Lumber.

US producers remain open to a new US-Canada softwood lumber trade agreement, “if and when Canada can demonstrate that it is serious about negotiations,” according to the Coalition. Both Washington and Ottawa have said they want to negotiate a new softwood lumber agreement, but talks appear to be stalled.

Canada “remains ready and willing to find solutions that allow for a return to predictable crossborder trade in softwood lumber,” Canadian **Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng** said in a statement. “We are confident that a negotiated solution to this long-standing issue is in the best interests of both our countries,” she added.

he called Commerce’s decision to continue the duties “unjustified” and a tax on US consumers. Canada will continue to fight the duties through the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the World Trade Organization, which has already ruled them illegal, she said.

### **\*\* Briefs \*\***

**Taylor Hearing Kicks off Farm Bill in Senate Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.** New Agriculture **Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor** will make her first formal appearance before the Senate Agriculture Committee this week as the panel hold the first in a series of hearing on the next Farm Bill.

The February 1 hearing will focus on trade and horticultural issues for the 2023 Farm Bill, according to an announcement from the committee. **Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow** (D-Mich) said this will be the “first of many hearings the Committee has planned as we gear up for the 2023 Farm Bill.” The senator added that she hopes to ultimately deliver a “strong” bill. The hearing is slated for February 1, beginning at 10 am in room 328A Russell Senate Office Building.

**US Goods Trade Deficit Up in December** The US goods trade deficit was \$90.3 billion in December, up \$7.3 billion from \$82.9 billion in November, according to a Commerce Department advance report released Thursday. Exports of goods for December were \$166.8 billion, \$2.6 billion less than November exports, Commerce reported. Goods imports for December were \$257.1 billion, a \$4.7 billion increase over November imports. Commerce is scheduled to release its full report on the December trade balance on February 7.

**FinCEN Alert / Real Estate Investment by Russian Elite.** Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is issuing an alert to financial institutions regarding potential investments in the U.S. commercial real estate sector by sanctioned Russian elites, oligarchs, their family members, and the entities through which they act. The alert lists red flags and typologies involving potential sanctions evasion in the commercial real estate sector and reminds financial institutions of their Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) reporting obligations. The alert, which is the fourth Russia-related alert FinCEN has issued since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, is also part of a broader effort by the U.S. Department of



the Treasury to increase transparency in the U.S. real estate market and prevent corrupt elites and other illicit actors from hiding their ill-gotten wealth. [\[alert\]](#)

**EU Dual Use Consultation.** EU annual export control reports have been prepared since 2013 and include licensing data collected through a dedicated mechanism developed with Member States on a voluntary basis. The EU Dual Use Regulation (EU) 2021/821 (the Regulation) mandates the collection of certain licensing information relevant to the implementation and enforcement of export controls, for reasons of effectiveness, consistency and transparency of export controls inside the EU.

The Commission is collecting and will publish stakeholders' contributions on EU Survey and make them available to the experts of the Member States in the DUCG. The Commission will also publish a summary of the consultation. All stakeholders with an interest in export of dual-use items and technologies (e.g. exporters, industry associations, government authorities, academia, research institutions and non-governmental organisations) are invited to provide feedback by submitting comments [\[here\]](#).

**Spain / Plastic Packaging Levy.** USDA/Madrid reports Spain has implemented a special tax on non-reusable plastic packaging that also applies to imported food products. For imports, payment of the tax is the responsibility of the importer, although third country manufacturers must provide their Spanish buyers with information regarding the amount of non-recyclable plastic packaging used in their products' packaging. [\[report\]](#)

**UK/NC Trade Talks** Following the Biden Administration's decision to suspend negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement, the Tory government continues efforts to negotiate trade deals at the state level. Last week The United Kingdom and State of North Carolina held the first government-to-government working group meeting under the UK-North Carolina Memorandum of Understanding on economic cooperation and trade relations, according to the UK trade office. Colin Gray, Deputy Consul General for the United Kingdom in Atlanta, and Machel Baker Sanders, Secretary of Commerce for the State of North Carolina, co-chaired the meeting, attended by officials from the respective governments.

**ITC / No Injury from Steel Nails.** The International Trade Commission determined that US producers are not being injured or threatened with injury by steel nail imports from India, Thailand and Turkey. The ITC's vote reverses a Commerce Department decision that imported steel nails from the three countries are being dumped on the US market at less-than-fair value. The ITC's negative determination means that Commerce will not issue antidumping duty order on steel nails from India, Thailand and Turkey. Commerce last month found final dumping rates of 2.94 percent to 3.98 percent for India, 12.69 percent to 13.90 percent for Thailand and 27.62 percent to 118.20 percent for Turkey.

**ITC Finds Injury by Lemon Juice Imports** Imports of lemon juice from Brazil and South Africa is causing harm to US producers, the International Trade Commission ruled yesterday. The Commerce Department earlier determined lemon juice imports from Brazil and South Africa are being sold in the United States at less than fair value. Commerce last month made a final antidumping duty determination that found dumping rates of 22.31 percent for Brazil and 47.89 percent to 73.69 percent for South Africa. As a result of the Commission's affirmative determinations, Commerce will issue antidumping duty orders on lemon juice from Brazil and South Africa.

**US Army Reservist Sentenced as Unregistered Agent.** A Chinese national who enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves under the *Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program*, which authorized the U.S. Armed Forces to recruit certain legal aliens whose skills are considered vital to the national interest, was sentenced to eight years in prison in Illinois. Beginning in 2016, Ji Chaoqun, 31, provided Ministry of State Security intelligence officers with biographical information on certain individuals for possible recruitment. The individuals included Chinese nationals who were working as engineers and scientists in the United States, some of whom worked for U.S. defense contractors. This tasking was part of an effort to obtain access to advanced aerospace and satellite technologies being developed by companies within the US.

**OFAC / Hizballah Bankers Cited.** Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control designated several individuals and associated entities for facilitating financial activities for Hizballah. At the center of this network is Lebanese money exchanger and so-called financial expert **Hassan Moukalled**, who plays a key role in enabling Hizballah to continue to exploit and exacerbate Lebanon's economic crisis. Treasury is also designating **CTEX Exchange**, a money service business owned by Hassan Moukalled, in addition to Hassan Moukalled's sons, **Rayyan Moukalled** and **Rani Moukalled**, who facilitate **Hassan Moukalled** and his company's financial activities in support of Hizballah.

### \*\*\* Calendar \*\*\*

**Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Alexis Taylor** will make her first formal appearance before the Senate Agriculture Committee February 1, at 10 am in room 328A Russell Senate Office Building.

**IPEF Special Negotiating Round - Stakeholder Listening Session (Virtual)** -- *Wednesday, February 1, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am (Eastern Time)* The U.S. Department of Commerce invites interested stakeholders to participate in a stakeholder listening session opportunity on February 1, 2023, in advance of the special negotiating round for Pillars II-IV of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in New Delhi, India. The special negotiating round hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi will be for IPEF Pillar II (supply chains), Pillar III (clean economy), and Pillar IV (fair economy). Registration for all participants must be sent to [USCommerceIPEF@trade.gov](mailto:USCommerceIPEF@trade.gov). In the email, please use the subject line "Department of Commerce IPEF Listening Session." *Registration will close at 12:00pm (Eastern Time) on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.*

**2023 Washington International Trade Conference**, sponsored by Washington International Trade Association (WITA) *virtually on Zoom, Monday, February 13, and Hybrid, Tuesday, February 14.* [\[Registration\]](#)

**USDA's 99th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF)**, will be held in-person at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott on *February 23-24, 2023*, and all sessions will be livestreamed on a virtual platform. More than 30 sessions and 100 agriculture leaders and subject matter experts will discuss key issues impacting the sector [\[Info\]](#)

**WITA 2023 Congressional Trade Agenda.** *Friday, March 3, 2023. 9:30 am - 11:00 am ET.*

*Featured Speakers:*

**Sally Laing**, Chief International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Democratic Staff

**Mayur Patel**, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff.

**Josh Snead**, Republican Chief Trade Counsel, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee.

**Alexandra Whittaker**, Democratic Chief Trade Counsel; Staff Director Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee. Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC [\[Registration\]](#)

**EU-US Trade & Technology Council: WG10 Roundtable on due diligence**

3 March 2023, 12:30 CET - 3 March 2023, 19:30 CET [hybrid register] TTC Working Group 10 will host a roundtable discussion. The focus of the roundtable will be on promoting inter alia labour rights in supply chains, including the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, and the importance of multistakeholder engagement in trade policy. This event will address (1) legislative and non-legislative initiatives in the EU and US addressing labour rights in global supply chains; (2) strengthening stakeholder capacity by sharing best practices to conduct due diligence; and (3) supporting partner governments in translating commitments to due diligence in global supply chains into concrete actions [\[event website\]](#).

Register [\[register\]](#) by Tuesday 28 February 2022, 18:00 CET / 12:00 EST.